

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4198

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EXDIS

FOLNG FM BOMBAY DTD 23 FEB.

QUOTE: BOMBAY 0431

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: TGEN IN

SUBJECT: PHYSICAL SECURITY TEAM VISIT

REF: BOMBAY 2874

1. SHOWING SOME SIGNS OF IRRITATION, IAEC CHAIRMAN SETHNA AGAIN POINTED OUT TO ME THAT HE HAS NOT YET RECEIVED THE REPORT OF THE PHYSICAL SECURITY TEAM WHICH HE WAS PROMISED ON NOV 13 DURING THAT TEAM'S VISIT TO BOMBAY. HE IS ESPECIALLY EAGER TO THAVE THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS, IF ANY, FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN HIS PHYSICAL SECURITY PLANS FOR THE TARAPUR NUCLEAR FUEL REPROCESSING PLANT WHICH IS STILL UNDER CONSTRUCTION BUT NEARING COMPLETION. HE POINTS OUT THAT UNLESS THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS ARE RECEIVED IN THE NEXT WEEK OR TWO, IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO IMPLEMENT ANY THAT REQUIRE PHYSICAL CHANGES AS CONSTRUCTION WILG BE TOO FAR ALONG BY THAT TIME TO PERMIT ANY MAJOR CHANGES.

2. I WOULD URGE THAT THE TEAM SEPARATE OUT WHATEVER SUGGESTIONS THEY MAY HAVE FOR THE REPROCESSING PLANT FROM THEIR OTHER OBSERVATIONS REGARDING SECURITY IN OTHER PARTS OF THE IAEC'S INSTALLATIONS AND FORWARD THEM SOONEST. SETHNA MENTIONED THAT HE HAD READ RECENTLY THAT THE US WAS COLLABORATING WITH QUITE A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES IN IMPROVING PHYSICAL SECURITY OF ATOMIC
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INSTALLATIONS, AND HA HOPED THAT HIS OWN NEEDS WERE NOT BEING OVERLOOKED IN THIS APPARENT LARGE-SCALE COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR.

I BELIEVE HE IS SINCERE IN WANTING BOTH THE BEST POSSIBLE SECURITY AND THE WIDEST POSSIBLE INTERNATIONAL ENDORSEMENT OF HIS SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS. HE IS CURRENTLY UNDER A LOT OF CRITICISM IN INDIA REGARDING SAFETY AND HEALTH HAZARDS AT HIS OPERATIONS AND HE WANTS TO PUT THE BEST POSSIBLE FACE FROWARD REGARDING ALL KINDS OF PRECAUTIONS TO PROTECT HIS NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS.

3. REQUEST REPLY SOONEST AS I EXPECT TO SEE SETHNA AT LEAST A COUPLE OF TIMES DURING THE NEXT TWO WEEKS. SOME RESPONSE ON THIS POINT WILL EASE MY OTHER CONVERSATIONS REGARDING SAFETY AT THE TARAPUR POWER STATION AND SAFEGUARDING OF NUCLEAR PROCESSING PLANT.

COURTNEY UNQUOTE
SAXBE

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